(d) if not, by when, it is going to be ratified by India; and

(e) to what extent it would be helpful for the agricultural labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Convention and Recommendation lays stress on preventive, protective and welfare measures to be taken for the health and safety of agricultural workers.

The decision to ratify the Convention will be taken only after extensive examination of the provisions of the convention and the implication of ratification of the Convention by means of cunsultation with the stakeholders, *i.e.*, the Central Organisations of Workers and Employers, Central Ministries/Departments and State Governments.

Pending Labour Cases

2672. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) how many labour cases are pending in different Industrial Tribunals and Labour Courts, Central and State-wise;

(b) how many of these cases are continuing in the Courts for more than ten years;

(c) whether it is a fact that the delay in disposal of cases are due to unwarranted adjournments; and

(d) if so, what action is proposed to be taken to expedite disposal of the labour cases?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) Information on the pendency of cases for State Labour Courts and State Labour Tribunals is not maintained. However, the position with regard to Central Govt. Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts is as under:

Total No. of cases pending (as on 31.3.2001--11080)
Total No. of cases pending for ten years and above (as on 31.3.2001) ---450.

The Ministry of Labour from time to time has brought to the notice of the Presiding Officers of the CGIT-cum-Labour Courts the need to reduce pendency of cases. In a recent review meeting held in May, 2001 in the Ministry of Labour, the Presiding Officers were once again requested about the need to reduce the pendency of cases and not to give repeated adjournments as such adjournments also result in delayed disposal of cases.

Review of Supervisory Mechanism of ILO

2673. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Labour Ministers Conference held in May, 2001 in

Kuala Lumpur has *inter-alia* urged the International Labour Organization to review its supervisory mechanism with regard to the issues like criteria for selection of members of the supervisory body, process for selection of individual cases in the Committee of Experts on the application of Standards and interpretation of compliance with ratified convention;

(b) what are the other conclusions of this conference; and

(c) Government reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The 15th ASEAN (not Asian) Labour Ministers' Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur on 10-11 May, 2001 supported the call by the Asia and Pacific Group (of which India is a member) for a review of the ILO supervisory mechanisms, particularly regarding transparency and objectivity of the criteria for selection of members of supervisory bodies, selection of individual cases in Committee of Experts on Application of Standards, and the Interpretation of Compliance with ratified conventions. The other issues discussed by the meeting included impact of the global economic slowdown in ASEAN countries, East Asia Cooperation, the proposed Philippines initiatives on common recognition of professions in ASEAN etc.

Welfare Schemes for Beedi Workers

†2674. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the Welfare Schemes in operation for the Welfare of Beedi Workers in the country;

(b) the State-wise amount incurred on these schemes during the year 2000;

(c) whether Beedi Workers of all districts of Bihar including Muzaffarpur district have been provided with the said benefits; and

(d) if so, the financial years in which the said benefits have been provided, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) A list of the Welfare Scheme being implemented by the Government for the benefit of the beedi workers and their dependants is attached at Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) A statement showing the region-wise expenditure incurred on above schemes during the year 2000-2001 is attached at Statement-II. *(See* below)

(c) and (d) The scheme are available for the workers of Bihar including workers of Muzaffarpur district. In the State of Bihar, during the year 2000-2001, following expenditure was incurred on various schemes:

Health Care:	Rs. 2,34,83,200/-
Education:	Rs. 11,46,600/-
Recreation:	Rs. 3,25.867/-

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.